



Here's edition 158 of our Clerk's Column circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

TOWN MEETING 2023

The annual Town Meeting at St Catherine's Church on this evening included an usual a celebration of the town's remarkable voluntary sector with members from six organisations giving 5-minute summaries of their organisation's work: Corine Moore – Living Well and Early Help; Mark Jeffries – Friends of Ventnor Cemetery; Val Pitts – Friends of Botanic Gardens; Phil Warren – Ventnor Enhancement Fund; and James Potter – Coastguard.

Our thanks to the other seven organisations offering to tell their story but willing to give way this year to prevent the meeting lasting too long: Teresa Preston – Ventnor Carnival; Roy George – Ventnor Community Foodbank; Leigh Geddes-Ventnor Community Shed; Joyce Milford – Baby Box; Marzena Turner – Ventnor Community Pantry; Lesley Telford – Ventnor Heritage Museum; and Terri Exopite – Well-being Café.

David George, a Member of the Town Council from 2009-2013 and Deputy Mayor repeated in the Open Forum his statement 'someone in this council stands accused of bullying two women and they remain a councillor' and asked Members if such allegations had been made against them.

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Town meeting was as usual preceded by the Annual Town Council Meeting with the first



item being the appointment of Councillor Steve Cooper as Town Mayor until the Annual Town Council Meeting of 2024. Councillor Mark Jefferies was elected as Deputy

Mayor for the same period before the Meeting went on to appoint Chairs and Members of its Planning, HR and Community Support Fund Committees and the members of its Assets & Services, Community Development and Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Groups.

The Meeting also had to record that the Town Council no longer qualifies for the use of the General Power of Competence as it currently does not have the required two-thirds of its Members that have been elected rather than co-opted.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- The latest UK Economic Outlook from the [National Institute](#) of Economic & Social Research finds 'the poorest households are around £4,000 a year worse off as a result of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis.'
- [National Energy Action](#) says today 'a staggering 8% of respondents were unable to keep their children at home due to not being able to afford their [#EnergyBills](#).'

COUNCILLOR JAMES TOOGOOD RESIGNS

After what he describes as 12 interesting and



productive years as a Member of Ventnor Town Council, James (Jim) Toogood sent his resignation from the role to the Mayor on Sunday. I've worked closely with Jim over those

years and know that so much of the successful refurbishment and repair of the buildings the Town Council now manages and the high quality new public toilets is due to his extensive knowledge of the building trade and the massive time commitment he has given so freely.

VENTNOR'S APRIL WEATHER

Chris Watts has provided his usual monthly summary of the daily weather readings at our own weather station.

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	63.8	
% of average	139	
No. of dry days	18	
Highest	21.6	27th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	10.0	
Difference from average	+0.3	
Highest	16.2	20th
Lowest	3.5	3rd
Coldest day	8.3	14th

HR COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee met on Wednesday morning beginning with an update on the shortlisting process for the three applicants that had resulted in the invitation to be interviewed to one of them that is planned for tomorrow. The interview arrangements were finalised followed by a consideration of change arrangements.

TRAFFIC ORDERS

Shore Hill: from 8am on Monday 15 May until 6pm on Friday 26 May, or when the works has been completed, no traffic along Shore Hill, for its entire length.

Alpine Steps: from midnight on Saturday 13 May until midnight on Friday 2 June or when the works has been completed, no one will use Alpine Steps for its entire length.